Vol. II. Numb. 6.

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, *July* 29. 1693.

Gentlemen,

Queſt. 1. *Your Anſwer to the following Caſe is much deſired and entreated, being ſo extraordinary.* There was a Gentlewoman, who when very young was put into a great Fright, fearing her Brother was untimely ſlain, which brought her into a habit of Melancholly that increaſed on her (eſpecially at Intervals) to her Dying-day; yet ſhe Marryed, and had about fixteen or eighteen Children, her *6th.* or *7th.* (being a Son, though not the firſt or ſecond Son) was heard to Cry in his Mothers Womb ſome Days or Weeks before her Travail; this Perſon is now living, and ſome who heard him Cry before his Birth are living in this City, (Perſons of undoubted Reputation.) I have known this Unhappy Gentleman many Years, and that he is (in mine and many others Apprehenſions) the moſt Diſconſolate Perſon in the World, his Life being a continual Burden, and as it were a conſtant Agony, as if wreſtling with Death-Pangs. He lyes under conſtant Temptations to make away himſelf, *&c.* but God hath hitherto prevented, and we hope will to the end, becauſe we are comfortably perſwaded he truly Fears God.

Pray be pleaſed to give your Opinion of this wonderful Paroxiſm of Nature, and whether you think it hath a Natural Cauſe from his Mother? For if ſo, why ſhould not her firſt or ſecond, or her laſt Child be affected with Melancholly, (they all being free from it) and how comes it to light on this Child (her 6th. or 7th.) and not on others?

Anſw. How much the Animal Part partakes of the Nature of its Original, is perhaps the moſt obſervable where promiſcuous Copulation is uſed, *viz.* in moſt tame Domeſtick Creatures, *Dogs*, *Cocks*, &c. What Courage is there to be found in the Offspring of a true breed of Cocks, and how Cowardly others are, though eſſentially they are all the ſame; but the Degrees of Courage, Hope, Fear, *&c.* which are common to all Fowl and Animals (as well as Men) are not eſſential, for we ſee they degenerate in a few Generations, ſometimes by contrary Parents, ſometimes by the Change of the Soil, as our Bull-Dogs and Cats taken out of *Europe* turn to other ſort of Creatures, not thoſe that are taken over themſelves, but thoſe that are bred there of ſuch as are taken over. And indeed we may as well wonder how a Lyon begets a Lyon, not an Aſs, *&c.* as well as enquire how the Off-ſpring does participate of the Means or Extreams of the Paſſions of thoſe from which it alſo derives its Eſſence: So that there's nothing extraordinary in this, that a Melancholly Mother ſhould bring forth a Melancholly Son. As to the latter part of the Queſtion, *Why the ſeventh ſhould be more Melancholly than the reſt?* 'tis eaſily anſwer'd, That 'tis more than barely probable the Mother labour'd under that Diſtemper in a greater meaſure during the time of Conception and Parturition, than of any other Child ſhe had; and even now though the impreſſion of Melancholly and a ſtrong Habit together may have ſtrangely wrought upon this Perſon, yet no doubt he might find vaſt Advantages by proper Dyet and Exerciſe; this is extreamly obſervable where a little Impreſſion is viſible, as in Children, who from their Nurſes Milk can extract Diſeaſes, and from a ſound Dyet grow vigorous and luſty. Religion indeed is the beſt Preſervative, ſince it engages the Author of Nature, but at the ſame time the Laws of Nature ought to be obſerv'd by all wiſe and prudent Perſons.

Queſt. 2. I Court a Gentlewoman of a Various Temper, one hour Merry, and another Melancholly, I have daily made Addreſſes of Love to her four or five Months, and ſhe has been very Ungrateful; but now in thoſe Hours of Mirth ſhe gives my Love acceptance with many kind Expreſſions: But for three or four Nights I have heard continually in her Houſe the Noiſe of a Watch, juſt as it were upon my Hat verge, although I moved from one end to the other: I have often requeſted Marriage, and ſhe makes no Reply but *Death haunts us*, *Death haunts us*; and if I requeſt it in the Day-time, ſhe Anſwers, She knows not what to ſay, nor what to do; yet I am ſure ſhe knows I Love her from all the World: *Now*, Gentlemen, *give your Opinion of the Dead-watch, and my Diſordered Miſtreſs, and Oblige your humble Servant?*

Anſw. Poor Gentleman, your Love diſturbs you, and We durſt for once Venture the Credit of *Athens* upon it, that you were the firſt that heard the Death-watch, ſo that her Anſwer, *Death haunts us*, *Death haunts us*, is only a Jeſt upon you, and to humour the buſineſs. The Death-watch is all ridiculous Stuff, 'tis nothing but a ſmall *Inſect* in the holes of rotten Wood or Worm-eaten Timber, that clinks and makes a Noiſe, and this has been often experienc'd; ſometimes they lye behind Partitions in Chamber-walls, and the Number of 'em is very often ſo great, that you wou'd ſuppoſe your ſelf amongſt a hundred Watches, 'tis done (as ſuppoſed) by the Feet like Graſs-hoppers. As for the various Temper of your Miſtreſs, it's very probable 'tis alſo owing to an over-tender Paſſion for you, there's a hundred ways to find it out; We ſee nothing in the Caſe but what is common enough with other Lovers, and which will remove upon Enjoyment, when you have both time to think whereabout you are. Courage and Importunity are very ſucceſsful Qualifications in a Lover, and ſuch as you need not much doubt will make you Maſter of what you deſire.

Queſt. 3. *Gentlemen*, I kept a Coffee-houſe, and made a Livelyhood by it; but my Wife uſing to go to a Tavern in an Evening, or to Gentlemen's Chambers in a Morning, to be Treated, as I was made believe for the Love of Wine only, I was adviſed by ſome Friends to keep Wine my ſelf, to take away her Pretenſions, and by which I find a very conſiderable Profit: But my Wife being Educated in a Tavern, and Naturally inclin'd to Wine and Company-keeping of all ſorts, and eſpecially when the Bottle is ſtirring, which ſhe ſeldom or never parts with 'till ſhe is Overcome with the Creature, by which means ſhe is laid open to all, and thoſe in a more particular manner that drink with Deſign, as the Cuſtom of the Sparks of the Town do, ſeldom or never miſſes effecting *Then* their premeditated Wickedneſs, and which at the ſame time puts evil Thoughts into my Mind, and makes my Head often to ake, and my Neighbours to point their Fingers at me: Now if I leave ſelling Wine, I loſe a certain Profit, and if I continue it, ſhe is expoſed in her Reputation, loſes her Health, and in the long run may her Precious Soul into the Bargain. *Your Advice in your next Mercury is deſir'd, What Courſe to take to preſerve my Trade and my Wife's Health, and Reputation, my own quiet, and ſtill keep the Wine trade a going, in which you will do an Act of great Friendſhip*, Gentlemen, *to your Humble Servant?*

Anſw. Truly, honeſt Friend, if your Wife will be Drunk, *&c.* 'tis the beſt and moſt private at home, for poſſibly by that means ſhe may eſcape the Mobb and *Bridewell*, but this on a ſuppoſition that you can be content with Cuckoldry: But if you will take our Opinion in the Caſe, take your Opportunity for Witneſſes, and get a Divorce from her; for if ſhe is irrecoverably gone for Drinking;

Drinking and Jilting, it's Scandal, Unhappineſs and Sin, to have any Correſpondence at all with her.

Queſt. 4. I am an Innocent Woman, given to Paſſion, and often-times overcome with Jealouſie of my Husband, and upon Information of an Ill Action committed by him, I in my Wrath ſwore by my God, I would Lye with the firſt Man I met, and though it were a Tinker, meaning, Play the Whore with him ; but upon ſecond Conſideration, I immediately retired to my Chamber, and reſerve my ſelf from the ſight of all Mankind, and ſhall 'till I receive the Opinion of your Learned Society, *Whether it will be a greater Sin to break my Oath made to God, or or Commit the Sin I ſwore to?* Gentlemen, *I begg your ſpeedy Anſwer, as you tender my Liberty, in relieving my ſelf from this Confinement?*

Anſw. Then meet your Husband, and Lye with him: If you think your ſelf not Abſolv'd from your Oath, becauſe you meant another Perſon beſides him, How did you know that ſuch other Perſon would Lye with you? if you ſtill had this reſerve, upon ſuppoſition he will do it, 'tis yet as great a Task to tell how he ſhou'd know your Mind, for you would hardly Propoſe ſuch a thing to any one. But to make ſhort of the matter, all Oaths unlawful or impoſſible are Diſſolv'd as they are made, and not to be perform'd. All that you have to do is to Repent, and beg Pardon for ſuch a Raſhneſs, and however your Husband treats you, to mind your own Duty.

Queſt. 5. Gentlemen, *A Friend of mine is very much given to Talk in his Sleep, and does ſo riſe out of his Bed in his Sleep, that without great Care he is very apt to run againſt Chairs and other things that are in his way, to the great hurt of himſelf, therefore we would deſire your Advice, how this may be avoided, and therein you will Oblige us that are his Friends, as well as himſelf?*

Anſw. The ſafeſt way is to have a ſort of Net-work about the Bed, that he can't get out of Bed.

Queſt. 6. *What think you of the Milky-way in the Heavens?*

Anſw. It's ſo call'd from its Whiteneſs, it divides the Heaven into two Hemiſpheres, but not preciſely, one of the Sections being at the laſt Degree of *Taurus*, and beginning of *Gemini*, the other at the end of *Scorpio* and beginning of *Sagittary*, at which place it's narrower about 2 Degrees than at *Gemini*, where 'tis ten Degrees broad, and is much like a River all along, winding, contracting and enlarging, and dividing its ſelf near the *Swan*, beyond the Tropic of *Cancer*, one of the Branches ends near the *Equator*, the other paſſing between *Sagittary* and *Scorpio*, by the Feet of the *Centaur*, croſs the Ship *Argo*, where it is broadeſt ; then goes by the *Unicorn* over the Head of *Leo*, to the Feet of *Gemini* ; from whence croſſing *Bootes*, *Perſeus* and *Caſſiopeia*, it returns again to the *Swan*. It's pretty to conſider the Extravagant Fancies of the Poets and ſome of the Ancient Philoſophers about it: Some ſay that when *Juno* ſuckled *Hercules*, and diſcover'd who it was, ſhe ſpilt her Milk there ; others that 'tis the ſpace of Heaven which the Sun's Chariot burnt by the ill driving of *Phaeton* ; others, the place where *Apollo* fought with the Giants, the Road of the gods leading to *Jupiter*'s Pallace, the Reſidence of Heroes, the Manſion of the Virtues, the High-way of Souls, with innumerable more ſuch Whims. The former Philoſophers, particularly *Ariſtotle*, held it to be a Meteor fed by plentiful Exhalations from the Earth, and fired or irradiated by the Stars in this place ; this Opinion prevail'd 'till the Uſe of long Teleſcopes, which diſcover an innumerable Company of ſmall Stars there, which are not viſible to the naked Eye; and 'tis generally concluded that 'tis nothing elſe but Stars, which being not great enough to tranſmit their light to us diſtinctly, the ſame is Aſſociated and United together, thereby cauſing a Whiteneſs, or a weak and imperfect light.

☞ At the MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL in *Adams Court* in *Broad-ſtreet*, near the *Royal Exchange*, *London*, are Taught Arithmetick, Merchants Accompts, Algebra according to the late Improvements, Geometry, Trigonometry, Dyalling, Navigation, Surveying, Gauging, Fortification, Gunnery, Perſpective, Arithmetick of Infinites, Converging Series, the Generation, Sections and Properties of the *Parabola Ellipſis* and *Hyperbole*, with their Application to Geometrick Places, and Conſtruction of Equations to as high a Power as demanded ; Geography, the Uſe of the Globes and other Mathematical Inſtruments. By *R. Sault*, Math. Profeſſ. Thoſe that deſire, may be Inſtructed abroad. Youth Boarded. The Undertaker Obliges himſelf to Teach by Letters in any place in *England*, with the ſame Expedition and Succeſs as by a Perſonal Attendance, when once a Correſpondence is ſettled.

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Monday *next will be Publiſhed*

☞ COmfort for Parents Mourning over their Hopeful Children that dye Young: In a Funeral Diſcourſe upon *Jer.* 31. 14. *And there is Hope in thine End, ſaith the Lord.* By *Thomas Whitaker*, Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Leeds* in *York ſhire*.
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☞ ELixir Stomachicum: Or, the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach ; *of a delicate Flavour, and pleaſant bitteriſh Taſte: Not Purging, but Cordial only; to be drank at any time, (but eſpecially in a Morning) in any Liquor, as Ale, Tea, Mum, Canary, White-Wine, A Dram of Brandy*, &c. *It makes the beſt Purl in the World in Ale, and in Canary, Tea*, &c. *very pleaſant and wholſome, far exceeding Purl made of Wormwood, which (being ſo hot and drying) hurts the Sight, and drys the Blood very much: This having the Quinteſcence of all the Ingredients of the bitter Draught in it, and many other excellent Stomachicks and Antiſcorbuticks brought into a ſmall quantity, as that 30 or 40 Drops is a Doſe; you may make it at your pleaſure in a Glaſs of White-Wine, Tea, or other Liquor; it procures a good Appetite, helps Digeſtion, expels all Wind, Strengthens the Stomach, purifies the Blood, and deſtroys the Scurvy, with many other Virtues mentioned in the Bills given with it; but theſe ſix things (eſpecially) it does beyond belief, without you experience it.* Price One Shilling each Bottle.

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LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, 1693.